

WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

April Edition

Hello everyone and welcome to the April edition of your club newsletter. The main topic is of course the write up of our annual club tournament but there are other various pieces of information that you will wish to note.

ANNUAL CLUB TOURNAMENT SATURDAY & SUNDAY 23/24 MARCH

A cold weekend outside it may have been, but the heat was certainly on inside the Wymondley Village Hall as this season's Annual Club Tournament got under way. Saturday saw the division three event played to a conclusion as thirteen eager participants battled in four groups to become division three champions and leave with the coveted trophy costing a shilling (that's 5p for you youngsters) yes, we certainly think and spend big at this club.

The groups finished to leave eight slightly smug quarter-finalists and five more licking their wounds. First matches underway in the quarter's saw No 1 seed Tony Wilson with far too much experience for the up and coming young 10 year old cadet Bruce Yao Tony winning 11-5, 11-4, 11-3 and Jai Gu somewhat surprisingly beating Robert Mitchell fairly comfortably 11-4, 11-9, 11-7. Closer games followed in the next two match-up as Peter Newbery came through against Bhavik Talsania 11-8, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7 and No 2 seed Elaine Hanworth being made to work hard by Lukas Wait, the final score line being 11-6, 7-11, 11-8, 11-5.

The semis again saw Tony having too much about him for Jai winning 11-2, 11-3, 11-5 and Elaine being stretched by an inform Peter before coming through by a score of 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8. The final was an interesting affair with Elaine certainly appearing to have done her homework, blocking well and not letting anything near Tony's forehand. The tactics paid off as she emerged victorious and the new division three champion with an 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7 win.

The division one/two singles provided some surprises early on in the group stages. In group one, James Abrams failed to make it through whilst in group two Pooja Sharma struggled to qualify, the group finally being decided on game count back.

In the Q/F's No 1 seed Rob Worrell fell to the three times finalist Erol Hasan but the other games all went to the form book as Bill Price accounted for young Robert Chapman, Paul Waterman overcame John Cox and Pooja (now recovered from her almost shock exit) saw off the spirited challenge of Roy Jager.

On to the Semi's where Erol beat Bill (now beginning to feel the effects of his exploits earlier-see below) by a score of 11-8, 13-11, 11-6, and Pooja ending Paul's hopes for another year with an 11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7 win.

The final was a titanic struggle. Erol has won this title twice before and was in no mood to go quietly, whilst Pooja was equally determined to win in her first final appearance. At the end youth prevailed over experience as Pooja became the Division One/Two champion for 2013 by a score of 11-8, 16-14, 9-11, 12-10.

You could be forgiven for thinking that with two of the club's top players having to withdraw at the last minute, the premier singles would in some way be diminished. Nothing however could be further from the truth as even without the presence of Arron Beckett and John McCance there were thrills galore and a shock result as well. The event got under way with ten players from the premier division and four who have played up from division one this season taking part. The groups saw some hotly contested games with Rob Worrell (div 1) narrowly beaten by Alan Shelford 11-6, 11-13, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6 and no 1 seed Simon Proffitt having to work even harder beating Marek Mastalerczyk 9-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9. The quarter finals saw the big names Isaac Beevor, Radovan Zivkovic and Marek all safely through but what about Simon where on table one he was battling to overcome club chairman Bill Price from div 1. Spectators were not aware of the drama to come as Simon eased through the first two legs 5-11, 4-11. But then came the fight back from Bill who turning back the years – no make that decades – staged an astonishing turnaround winning the next three legs 14-12, 11-9, 11-8 to put last year's winner out. This match-up was best summed up by Isaac who said quote "I cannot believe what I am seeing".

On to the semi finals where a now near exhausted Bill failed to keep his giant killing act together falling to Isaac 11-6, 11-7, 11-5 and Alan Shelford who had performed wonders beating Marek 11-7, 8-11, 12-14, 13-11, 11-8 in the quarters going down to No 3 seed Radovan by a score of 11-9, 11-5, 11-8.

The final between seeds two and three was a totally attacking affair with the player who managed to get the big topspin forehand in first winning the point. At the end of three pulsating legs it was Isaac who came out on top over Radovan winning by a score of 16-14, 12-10, 11-7 to lift the premier title for the first time. This was a fitting end for the young player who begins University in September.

The handicap singles produced as you would expect some interesting results with many lower division players beating higher opposition on handicap through the rounds. Congratulations once again to Elaine Hanworth from division three who made it all the way to the semis before being beaten by Alan Shelford 10-21, 21-16, 21-19. The other semi saw Dilshan Wijesekera lose out to Marek 21-7, 20-21, 21-16 who then went on to defeat Alan in the final 14-21, 21-13, 21-10 to reverse the result from the premier singles.

A great weekend's table tennis may next year be even better. Come on everyone, especially our newcomers and juniors/cadets make it a diary date for next March.

Goodbye and Good Luck

The club are set to lose three of its top juniors to University this year. May I on behalf of all club members wish Isaac, Pooja and Matt Hellon all the very best of luck both at University and whatever career they choose to follow in the future.

Summer Practice Sessions

These will begin at the **Wymondley Hall on Thursday 13th June beginning at 7.30pm**. If numbers can be sustained the cost will be £3.00 per evening. Paul Waterman and I will be hall custodians for the summer period although help may be needed from time to time. If anyone wishes to help then please contact either Paul or me. All are welcome including new members, juniors and cadets.

Team Formations for 2013/14

The teams for next season are slowly beginning to come together. Once everything has been completed I will send the proposed teams to all members for final comments. It should be noted that changes to this document will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Congratulations to the following;

The A team on finishing as premier division and Willmott Cup runners-up.

The F team on finishing as division one runner-up

The L team on finishing as division three runners-up and Henderson Cup winners

The J team on finishing as McClaughlin Cup runners-up

Isaac Beevor on winning the North Herts U/18 event beating top twenty England ranked Luke Walsh in the final.

Steve King on winning the North Herts Division Three event.

.Hot Shots

Congratulations to those below on achieving such good averages this season.

Premier Division: Isaac Beevor 92.3%, Simon Proffitt 90.4%, Arron Beckett 89.6%, Angela Smith 82.2%

Division One: Robert Worrell 81.8%, Erol Hasan 72.2%

Division Three: John Cox 96.2%, Tony Wilson 81.8%, David Cunningham 81.0%

Buddy Robot

Finally, to inform you that club member Doug Livingstone has just purchased a Buddy Robot. Although this is primarily for his own use at home, Doug has very kindly offered members the opportunity of trying it out there or borrowing it for a short spell. If any of you are interested Doug can be contacted on 07909 534838.

Roger